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EASTERN EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCER OCI #0953/72
16 August 1972Polish-Chinese Relations Improving?

Recent trends in Polish press coverage may reflect a general, it slight, improvement in Polish-Chinese relations. Six months ago, the Polish newspapers were full of condemnation of the "Maoist Clique," veiled attacks on alleged Chinese political inroads in the Balkans and dark hints of anti-Soviet overtones in President Nixon's planned trip to Peking. Gradually, and over a period of several months, these press denunciations have almost totally disappeared. Now the China issue has receded very much into the background in the Polish press, and news reports out of China are handled pretty much on a factual basis.

The press is, of course, merely following the government lead on this issue which seems to be heading toward increased pragmatism by both the Poles and the Chinese. For example, the Chinese Ambassador who recently arrived in Warsaw reportedly told [redacted]

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[redacted] that China is primarily interested in improving trade with Poland and is pleased with progress in that direction. Relations between the two countries remain decidedly cool, however; perhaps after their low point in early 1972, they really had no way to go but up.

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Student Trial: Continues

The trial of four prominent Croatian student leaders for alleged crimes against the state during last year's political upheavals in Croatia, continued through its ninth day with no end in sight. The latest bit of inflammatory evidence to be presented against the defendants came on Monday, when students from the ethnically diverse town of Vukovar (on the Croatian-Vojvodina border) testified that one of the defendants had brought a bus load of Zagreb University students to Vukovar to proselytize for Croatian nationalism. Included in their activity was the repeated singing of "We Croats Do Not Drink Wine, We Drink Serbs' Blood."

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Charges have also surfaced that the defendants severely criticized a leading Croat Politician and member of the federal party presidium, Dr. Vladimir Bakaric.

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Smugglers Arrested In Dubrovnik

Four persons were arrested in the Yugoslav resort town of Dubrovnik on 14 August and have been charged with smuggling counterfeit \$100 bills into the country. The four are apparently part of an Italian based counterfeit ring which has already changed bogus US currency in at least five other Yugoslav towns along the Adriatic coast. In all instances the money has been passed in the name of Battista Dagostinelli. Yugoslav security forces have promised a fuller report on the case in the next few days.

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